REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2007. In that Office Action claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-22 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeffords et al. (USPN 6510478) in view of Simmons et al. (USPN 6,704,767), and in further view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 have been amended and claim 5 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeffords et al. (USPN 6510478) in view of Simmons et al. (USPN 6,704,767), and in further view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Claim 1 recites in part:

> receiving a request to modify at least an ownership property associated with the lock object, wherein the request is created using a Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning protocol, originates from a requesting client computer system, and is transmitted over the Internet;
>
> analyzing the request to determine whether the request is made by the lock owner; and
>
> if the request is made by the lock owner, modifying at least the ownership property associated with the lock object without unlocking the resource associated with the lock object

Jeffords teaches a method for coordinating synchronization between processes that share an object "so that the shared object is accessed by one and only one process at a time." (Jeffords, col. 1, lines 25-30). Jeffords does not disclose properties of any kind in the context of locks. Jeffords refers only to "locks" in general and does not disclose any lock properties, e.g.,

shared/exclusive, advisory/mandatory, read/write, and therefore cannot teach modifying at least and ownership property as claimed by claim 1.

Simmons describes a system for managing locks that give permission to access resources. Simmons discloses storing information, about which locks have been granted for a resource, at both "a master node and at the nodes on which are located processes that desire to access the resource." (Simmons, col. 4, lines 56-60). A master resource object located on the master node controls the grant of locks to shadow resource objects located on the nodes, on which are located the processes that desire to access the resource. Each shadow resource object is then used to grant locks on the resource to the processes that are located on the same node as the shadow resource object. (Simmons, col. 4, lines 63-65). Simmons also discloses a lock manager that coverts an exclusive mode lock to a lesser lock in response to a lock downgrade request transmitted by a blocking process that is releasing its exclusive lock. (Simmons, col. 3, lines 61-65). The lock manager grants the shared mode lock by moving the shared mode lock request from a requested queue to a granted queue. (Simmons, col. 3, line 66-col. 4, line 1). However, Simmons does not disclose receiving a request to modify at least an ownership property associated with the lock object as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action states that Applicant's admitted prior art teaches some of the elements present in Applicant's claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In the specification, Applicant is merely pointing out that WebDAV provides methods that allow a client to lock a resource when using that resource so subsequent users may not access the resource at the same time. This locking scheme of WebDAV helps prevent the "lost update" problem. However, as the specification points out, although a locking scheme is present in WebDAV "the present locking system implemented in DAV is unsatisfactory with respect to the management of these locks." (Specification, page 2, lines 19-21). As discussed in more detail below, even if the "Background of the Invention" in Applicant's specification is considered prior art as stated in the Office Action, the Office Action has failed to point out the motivation for implementing the recited deficiencies of WebDAV with Jeffords and Simmons. Furthermore, Applicant's "Background of the Invention" fails to disclose receiving a request to modify at least an ownership property associated with the lock object as recited in claim 1.

Even if the recited combination of references could be combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action, the combination would still lack at least the above recited limitations of

claim 1. As claims 2-4 and 18 depend from claim 1, claims 2-4 and 18 are not rendered obvious by the recited combination of references.

Claim 8 recites in part:

> a lock object, wherein the lock object comprises a plurality of properties, wherein a first property identifies a lock owner, and wherein the first property may be modified to change the lock owner without unlocking the locked resource.

As discussed above, Jeffords does not disclose properties of any kind in the context of locks. Jeffords refers only to "locks" in general and does not disclose any lock properties, e.g., shared/exclusive, advisory/mandatory, read/write, and therefore cannot teach a lock object having a plurality of properties where "a first property identifies a lock owner, and wherein the first property may be modified to change the lock owner without unlocking the locked resource" as recited in claim 8.

As stated above, Simmons discloses a lock manager that coverts an exclusive mode lock to a lesser lock in response to a lock downgrade request transmitted by a blocking process that is releasing its exclusive lock. (Simmons, col. 3, lines 61-65). The lock manager grants the shared mode lock by moving the shared mode lock request from a requested queue to a granted queue. (Simmons, col. 3, line 66-col. 4, line 1). Simmons does not disclose "a lock object, wherein the lock object comprises a plurality of properties, wherein a first property identifies a lock owner, and wherein the first property may be modified to change the lock owner without unlocking the locked resource" as recited in claim 8.

Because neither Simmons nor Jeffords, either alone or in combination, disclose at least the above recited limitation of claim 8, claim 8, nor dependent claims 9, 19, and 20, are not rendered obvious by the recited combination of references.

Claim 11 recites in part:

> a receive module for receiving resource requests created using a Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning protocol from the plurality of processes, wherein the receive module receives a request transmitted over the Internet from a

requesting process that includes modification information concerning at least one property of a lock object associated with a requested resource

As stated in the office action, neither Simmons nor Jeffords disclose the use of WebDAV or that requests to modify locks are transmitted via the Internet.

With respect to Simmons, Simmons discloses that a "...process for desiring a lock and the lock resource may reside within different nodes of a multi-processor machine, or on different workstations in a local area network." (Simmons, col. 4, lines 18-21). Simmons makes no mention of wide area networks or the Internet. The system implemented by Simmons requires that each requesting node create and store a shadow resource object for every resource that it locks. As a result, if Simmons was implemented over the Internet, every client would be required to have multiple shadow resource objects for locking resources on the Internet. Such an implementation would be wholly inefficient.

With respect to Applicant's specification, the specification is merely describing the features of WebDAV by pointing out that WebDAV provides methods that allow a client to lock a resource when using that resource so subsequent users may not access the resource at the same time. This is to prevent the "lost update" problem. However, as stated above, the purpose of the current application is to improve on the locking system present in WebDAV which "currently is unsatisfactory with respect to the management of these locks." (Specification, page 2, lines 19-21). Currently, in order for a lock property to be modified in DAV, "the owner must give up the existing lock, and then request a new lock." (Specification, page 3, lines 17-18). DAV does not provide a "receive module receives a request transmitted over the Internet from a requesting process that includes modification information concerning at least one property of a lock object associated with a requested resource."

Even if Jeffords could be combined with Simmons in the manner suggested in the Office Action, and even if Applicant's specification qualified as prior art, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Jeffords and Simmons with the description of WebDAV in Applicant's specification. As stated, Simmons' implementation over a wide area network, such as the Internet, would be inefficient as it would require every client to have multiple shadow resource objects for locking resources on the Internet. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the Simmons, Jeffords and current features of

WebDAV because the combination thereof would be wholly inefficient. As such, the Office Action has failed to provide the requisite motivation to combine all three cited references.

As none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose "a receive module for receiving resource requests created using a Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning protocol from the plurality of processes, wherein the receive module receives a request transmitted over the Internet from a requesting process that includes modification information concerning at least one property of a lock object associated with a requested resource" as recited in claim 11, claim 11 is not rendered obvious by the recited combination of references. As claims 12-16, and 21-22 depend from claim 11, these claims are not rendered obvious by the recited combination of references.

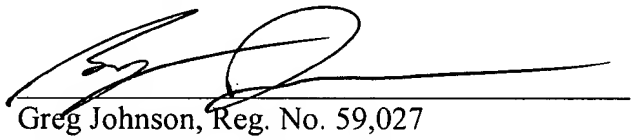
Conclusion

The above amendments and accompanying remarks are believed to be fully responsive to all points raised in the Office Action mailed September 25, 2007. Still, the Office Action may contain other arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed herein because those arguments and rejections are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure to directly address an argument raised, or statement made, in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicants believe the argument to have merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other features, not discussed in the above remarks, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the references cited in by the Examiner. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

It is believed that no fees are due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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